

REMARKS

Claims 1, 21, 41, and 49 have been amended. Claims 2-4, 14, 16, 17, 22-24, 33-40, 42-44, 50-51, and 57-60 were previously cancelled. No new claims have been added. Claims 1, 5-13, 15, 18-21, 25-32, 41, 45-49 and 52-56 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner earlier identified certain claims as being allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Additionally, the Examiner has requested that the term “proximately” be added to modify the term “near” in the independent claims. Independent claims 1, 21, 41 and 49 have been amended to place them into condition for allowance. Further, all claims depending on independent claims 1, 21, 41 and 49 are also now in condition for allowance. It follows that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

If any further amendments to the claims are needed to place the application in condition for allowance, we request that the Examiner contact us by telephone to discuss the proposed additional amendments.

Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel

The claims of this application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

Conclusion

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the pending application is now in condition for allowance. Allowance is hereby solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to answer any questions or to discuss further steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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